Ottawa Police Services Board

Special Meeting

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 52

Friday, 11 February 2022 4:00 p.m.

By Zoom

Present: B. Johnson, C. Meehan, R. King, D. Deans (Chair), D. Nirman, L.A. Smallwood (Vice Chair), R. Swaita

Others: P. Sloly, Chief of Police; S. Bell, Deputy Chief of Police; T. Ferguson, Acting Deputy Chief of Police; B. Dunker; CAO, K. Ferraro, Executive Director; Hannah Logan, Board Assistant, Lindsey Gray, Ministry of the Solicitor General; C. Huneault, OPS Legal Counsel

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. *CONTINUATION:* CHIEF AND COMMAND UPDATE ON ONGOING DEMONSTRATIONS

This item's discussion began in a public session, however following the completion of the public agenda the Board and Service moved in camera to discuss the subject in greater detail.

The Service referenced threats having been received by Chair Diane Deans and her staff members. The Chief indicated that they would do their best to determine who was behind them. He recommended the Chair reach out to Crime Prevention Officers (CPOs) while the investigations were underway. It was noted that an investigator would be assigned.

Chief Sloly then noted that he had also received several threats. He referenced a provincial security team that was in the process of conducting a threat assessment. He had not yet received the full briefing on their findings; however he had been advised to better secure his home. He indicated that there would be some costs associated with doing so. He had begun carrying his firearm with him between work and his home.

A question was raised regarding whether Councillor Catherine McKenney might require security, as they had received a death threat. They had requested security and were trying to have their child spend the weekend elsewhere.

Chief Sloly indicated that security for Councillor McKenney could be arranged, and that Deputy Chief Steve Bell would reach out. Further, he indicated that the Centretown CPO was aware.

A question was raised regarding resource supports received from the OPP and RCMP. They had 60 OPP officers and 40 RCMP at that time and had since Monday. That was the total of additional officers provided.

The Board expressed concern that it did not seem as though the Service was being provided with the resources required. A question was raised regarding whether the Service would be in favour of a number of councillors asking the Mayor to request the Attorney General's support through the National Defense Act.

[redacted]

A question was raised regarding the demonstration's level of threat to Ottawa residents. It was suggested that the threat had been significantly mitigated. The Service explained that the most visible hate symbols had been removed, and that noise level had significantly decreased. There remained distress and fear among downtown residents, and an unlawfulness in the red zone and staging areas. There remained approximately 400 trucks, and there were vulnerable people in the demonstration zone. There was concern related to the military backgrounds of some of the protest participants. The Service did not have the resources to transition from a maintenance approach to a more assertive approach.

A comment was made regarding the Ministry of Transportation having begun pulling trucks over, and the Service indicated that the operation had been planned and developed over the past days to target trucks around the Coventry staging area.

The Service indicated that while there was a foreign element, it primarily stemmed from financial support coming from the United States. There had been threats traced back to the U.S. as well. Support was being provided by the F.B.I.

Further, the OPS were in regular contact with CSIS, and their intelligence had been embedded into the Service's overall intelligence posture. [redacted] that was being suggested on social media and they were closely observing that aspect.

It was noted that at the time of the convoy's arrival, there was no intelligence that suggested the demonstration would turn into the occupation that it had become. National and international security blind spots were pointed to, and the Service indicated that due to the cumulative blind spots the OPS lacked the capacity to address the unfolding situation. The need to look ahead and develop a plan with the level of resourcing available was noted.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board provide Chair Diane Deans with delegated authority for the provision of resources to address safety concerns of any member of the OPSB and Council member that has received direct threats against them.

CARRIED

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this item for information.

RECEIVED

MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF IN CAMERA SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.